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FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2047
INFO RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0063
RUEHXX/ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 002585

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FOR NEA/MAG (HARRIS)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/17/2016
TAGS: [PREL](#) [UNSC](#) [GT](#) [VE](#) [AL](#) [TS](#)
SUBJECT: TUNISIA INSTRUCTS UN MISSION TO SUPPORT GUATEMALA
FOR UNSC SEAT

REF: A. TUNIS 2581

[1](#)B. STATE 172322
[1](#)C. STATE 169226
[1](#)D. STATE 168341

Classified By: CDA David Ballard for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C/NF) Ministry of Foreign Affairs Chef de Cabinet Hatem Atallah on October 17 convoked Charge for a one-on-one meeting to give his assurances that the GOT had instructed its UN Mission in New York to vote for Guatemala for the UNSC seat. "Don't believe anything you hear otherwise," Atallah maintained, noting that in sending these instructions, the GOT had gone against the Arab League position. He said the Tunisian UN Mission had also been instructed to keep voting for Guatemala in the successive votes. The hurried meeting was called on short notice, for which Atallah apologized, explaining that he wanted to convey the message in person and not over the telephone.

[1](#)2. (C/NF) Comment: We were unaware that there was a "correct" Arab League position, but Atallah intimated that the GOT was bucking it. In addition, Atallah did not specify when the instruction had been sent. It is possible that, Ref B assurances notwithstanding, the instructions were conveyed during the later rounds of voting, but that the GOT wants to get credit for supporting Guatemala, all the same.
BALLARD